

Town of Goshen
Board of Selectmen
Lake Weed Management Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

First Selectman's Office
June 30, 2015 7:00 PM

Present: Steve Romano (Chair), Lida Exstein (DP), Michelle Fitzpatrick (TL), Nell Glass (WSP), Chris Sanders (WSP)

Absent: Ken O'Hara (WL), Richard Reis (WL), Santo Manicone (DP), Frank McCarthy (TL)

In Attendance: John McKenna (Republican-American), Gerry Glass (WSP), Chris Wright (TL), Mandy Wright (TL), Henry Moore (TL), Bob Valentine (for first part of meeting), plus two other individuals whose names were not captured.

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes for June 24, 2015 Special Meeting.** – Item was tabled until next meeting.
3. **Review of Dr. Knoecklein's presentation.** – The Committee discussed the June 27th presentation. Generally, felt the turnout was good and the fact that people stayed for two hours indicated strong interest. However, many felt that the presentation was too long and was "over the heads" of many in the audience. One disappointment expressed was that Dr. Knoecklein never discussed the relative costs of the remediation options; some would have liked to have heard specific cost estimates for their lake.
4. **Discuss Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) as possible remediation company** – Lida Extstein reported that she had contacted ACT since the last meeting. They indicated that they know Dr. Knoecklein well and felt it was important that Dr. Knoecklein define the work that needs to be done on each lake before they could provide a proposal; they also indicated that this is busy season. Lida suggested to the Committee that we invite ACT to come to a future meeting to present their general capabilities and discuss some of the issues with various remediation approaches. The Committee was fine with this, but Steve Romano asked that he first check on the requirements of complying with the Town's purchasing policies.
5. **Discuss testing done to date** – The water sampling program has begun. The first samples were taken in May at the three lakes and sent to Dr. Knoecklein for testing. No report was available for this meeting. There were some initial issues with the process that are being sorted out (water samples must be taken at 3 depths, some logistics issues with water sample bottles, availability of a boat on the 3 lakes). It was suggested that a full report be made at the next meeting.
6. **Any other business** – The Committee invited comments from the citizens in attendance. It was noted that the Committee should focus on educating the public in addition to remediation.

Woodridge Lake has signage that they put at boat launches. Perhaps a flyer about rain gardens. Bob Valentine offered to determine what DEEP official is responsible for the State boat launches and get us in touch to discuss what we can and cannot do. The Committee reported that they considered education as one of their areas of focus. It was noted that both the DEEP and the CT Federation of Lakes have materials on invasive species and property owner best practices that we could leverage as part of an awareness program.

The Committee was asked how much this would cost for the lakes. The Committee told those in attendance that it depended on the remediation plan that they planned to put in place this summer. It was reported as one data point that the Bantam Lake Protective Association had an annual budget on the order of \$75,000 a year for their larger lake. It was also reported that a subset of West Side Pond residents had spent on the order of \$9,000 for a very limited suction harvesting program last year. It was estimated that remediation for each Goshen lake could require an annual budget of ten's of thousands of dollars. Funding this would be an important aspect of the Committee's work.

Building on these discussions, the Committee agreed on three important initiatives on which they would focus: Education (Awareness), Fundraising, and Remediation. Lida Exstein volunteered to chair the Committee's efforts for Fundraising. Some initial ideas discussed included a booth at the Goshen Fair for awareness and fundraising; perhaps we could sell shirts with some interesting theme (Henry Moore reported about a group at the Great Swamp near Danbury who sell shirts that say FROGS – Friends of Great Swamp). Lida felt that we should start small, targeting raising a few thousand dollars initially. Michele Fitzpatrick volunteered to chair the Committee's efforts for Awareness/Education. The other Committee members will help as needed.

The Committee also discussed Dr. Knocklein's proposal for moving forward. At the Saturday meeting, he proposed conducting a mid-season (July) aquatic survey update and then he would meet with the Committee lake groups to formulate a remediation plan. To the extent that permitting was required for the remediation, he would also work with the Committee on applications. We are awaiting a financial estimate from him for this work so we can assure the funds needed. The Committee agreed that this is the path we should follow and emphasized the importance of getting this going in July – before the next meeting on July 28th. Michele agreed she would communicate this with Dr. Knoecklein and that we would work together to ensure this moves forward.

The Committee discussed that Woodridge Lake is having a meeting on July 11th at which several task groups they formed to investigate Herbivores, Harvesting and Chemicals will report. It was suggested that we attend. Lida Extstein will attend for the group (she is a Woodridge property owner) and report at the next meeting.

Chris Sanders expressed concern that the Committee needs to have a regular financial report at

each meeting; we should know what has been donated, for which lake(s), what it has been spent on, and what is available for future needs. Steve reported that Bob Valentine was working on this.

7. **Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

By Chris Sanders, Committee Secretary